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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

For the Year ended 31st Dec., 1948.

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NORTHWICH :

W. HOBSON & SON, PRINTERS.



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# Northwich Rural District Council.

## Health Report for 1948.

To the Chairman and Members of the Northwich  
Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the following statement of essential matters affecting the Public Health of the district during the year 1948.

### Section A.

#### STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area	...	...	...	...	...	...	57,547 acres
Population — Registrar-General's latest estimate of population	...	...	...	...	...	...	31,790
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1948) including "squatters" huts at Hartford Manor Camp	...	...	...	...	...	...	9,426
Rateable value (1st October, 1948)	...	...	...	...	...	...	£161,730
Sum represented by a penny rate (March, 1948)	...	...	...	...	...	...	£642 15s. 8d.

The following extracts from vital statistics of the year relate to net births and deaths after correction for inward and outward transfers by the Registrar-General.

		Total.	M.	F.	
Live Births	{ Legitimate....	566	277	289	} Birth Rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population... 18·7
	{ Illegitimate ...	28	12	16	
Stillbirths	{ Legitimate ...	17	11	6	} Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births ... 29·41
	{ Illegitimate...	1	—	1	
Deaths...	...	321	168	153	Death Rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population ... 10·09

Deaths from puerperal causes (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List):—

	Deaths.	Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births.
No. 29 Puerperal Sepsis	1	1·63
No. 30 Other puerperal causes	1	1·63
Total	2	3·26

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:—

All infants per 1,000 live births	23·56
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	24·73
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	—

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	42
„ „ Measles (all ages)	—
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	—
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	1



The following tables compares the main statistics for 1948 with the years 1939—1947:—

	Popu- lation	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Infant Death Rate	No. of Deaths from Cancer	No. of Deaths from Tubercu- losis
1939.	29,020	.. 15·67	.. 11·00	.. 48·14	.. 52	.. 9
1940.	30,030	.. 15·25	.. 12·70	.. 58·18	.. 52	.. 7
1941.	30,850	.. 15·59	.. 10·98	.. 36·58	.. 42	.. 11
1942.	29,800	.. 16·17	.. 10·36	.. 45·64	.. 43	.. 9
1943.	28,900	.. 16·47	.. 10·72	.. 37·81	.. 40	.. 11
1944.	28,730	.. 18·16	.. 10·47	.. 30·65	.. 52	.. 14
1945.	28,460	.. 17·39	.. 11·59	.. 50·50	.. 55	.. 18
1946.	29,640	.. 18·04	.. 11·57	.. 28·03	.. 48	.. 13
1947.	30,650	.. 20·22	.. 11·97	.. 29·03	.. 56	.. 5
1948.	31,790	.. 18·71	.. 10·09	.. 23·56	.. 42	.. 4

**CAUSES OF DEATH — 1948.**  
(Taken from the Registrar-General's Tables).

	MALES.	FEMALES	TOTAL.
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever	—	—	—
2. Cerebro Spinal Fever	—	—	—
3. Scarlet Fever	—	—	—
4. Whooping Cough...	—	—	—
5. Diphtheria...	—	—	—
6. Tuberculosis of respiratory system	1	3	4
7. Other Tubercular Diseases	—	—	—
8. Syphilitic Diseases	1	—	1
9. Influenza	—	—	—
10. Measles	—	—	—
11. Ac. Polio-myel : and Polio-enceph :	—	—	—
12. Ac. : inf : enceph :	—	—	—
13. Cancer of B : cav : & oesoph (M) uterus (F)	3	3	6
14. Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	6	6	12
15. Cancer of Breast	—	5	5
16. Cancer of all other sites	13	6	19
17. Diabetes	1	5	6
18. Intra-cran : vasc : lesions	22	12	34
19. Heart Diseases	52	61	113
20. Other circulatory diseases	10	8	18
21. Bronchitis	5	11	16
22. Pneumonia	9	4	13
23. Other Respiratory Diseases	1	—	1
24. Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	1	—	1
25. Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	—	1	1
26. Appendicitis	—	—	—
27. Other digestive diseases...	3	2	5
28. Nephritis	8	3	11
29. Puerperal and Post-Abort. Sepsis	—	1	1
30. Other Puerperal Causes	—	1	1
31. Premature Birth	1	1	2
32. Congenital debility and Malformations	4	5	9
33. Suicide	4	1	5
34. Road Traffic Accidents	3	—	3
35. Other Violent Causes	4	2	6
36. All other Causes	16	12	28
	168	153	321

### New Industries.

No new industries have been established in the Council's district during the year.

### Section B.

## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

### (A) Provided by the District Council.

#### (1) Staff.

W. S. Slater, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.	Medical Officer of Health	(Services shared with the other 3 Mid- Cheshire Districts and since July 5th with the County Council as Divisional M.O. and Regional Hospital Board as Medical Superintendent of Davenham Fever Hospital).
Sister I. D. Rogerson	Trained Nurse (Scabies and Diphtheria Immunisation).	(Services shared with the other 3 Mid- Cheshire Districts and since July 5th with the County Council).
Clerical Staff	1 person (whole-time).	(Services shared with the other 3 Mid- Cheshire Districts).
J. S. Carrie Cert. R.S.I. Cert. Meat & Food Inspection. Cert. Sanitary Science. Cert. Smoke Inspection & Boiler House Management. Hon. Cert. Hygiene R.I. Public Health & Hygiene.	Chief Sanitary Inspector	(Northwich Rural Dis- trict Council only).
H. R. Worsley.	Assistant Sanitary Inspector. (At present studying for Royal Sanitary Institute Examination).	do.
W. P. Musgrave.	Assistant to Sanitary Inspector. (At present studying for Royal Sanitary Institute Examination).	do.

Clerical Staff	2 persons	do.
	(whole-time).	

**(2) Laboratory Facilities.**

The old arrangements made with the Manchester Public Health Laboratory and with the County Analyst proved adequate during the early part of the year for the examination of water, milk and ice-cream supplies and pathological specimens of all descriptions. After 5th July these Services became "free" to the Council under the new Public Health Laboratory Service.

**(3) Ambulance Facilities.**

118 Rural patients were removed by the Northwich and Winsford Urban Ambulance services up to the 4th July. The Ambulance Services were then transferred to the County Council under the day-to-day management of a local Divisional Health Committee. Under this new Committee the Public Ambulances of the district — 6 vehicles in all — were "pooled" and formed the nucleus of a County Service covering an area of some 100 sq. miles of Mid-Cheshire.

**(4) Davenham Isolation Hospital.**

The Davenham Isolation Hospital, Nr. Northwich, served adequately the needs of the District Council and admitted 70 Northwich Rural patients during 1948.

Since the 5th July this hospital has become the responsibility of the North and Mid Cheshire Hospital Management Committee working under the Manchester Regional Hospital Board.

(5) Details of the other Health Services, e.g. Sanitary and Housing Inspections, Food Examinations, etc., etc., provided by the Northwich Rural Council are recorded later in this report.

**(B) Provided by the County Council.**

The Cheshire County Council have Officers discharging duties in the Rural Area under the following Services :- School Medical, Maternity and Child Welfare, Vaccination, Tuberculosis, School Dental, Health Visiting, Domestic Help, Care and After Care, Weights and Measures Inspection, Specialist Services, e.g. Orthopaedic, Ophthalmic, Venereal Diseases, etc. In addition, the County have assumed responsibility for the Ambulance Services, Diphtheria Immunisation, etc. since the 5th July. County Maternity Services were provided in neighbouring Hospitals, e.g. West Park, Clatterbridge, Chester City Hospital and County Maternity Homes. These Institutions, after the 5th July, passed out of the control of the County Council to the Regional Hospital Boards.



The following is a summary of the main changes in the local Health Services which occurred during 1948 as the out-come of the National Health Service Act:—

The District Council, after the 5th July, were no longer responsible for:—

- (a) Diphtheria Immunisation.
- (b) Ambulance Services.
- (c) The provision of hospital accommodation for Infectious Diseases.
- (d) The provision of Diphtheria Antitoxin.
- (e) The cost of certain Laboratory facilities, etc. After the 5th July the following changes took place:—  
 Pathological specimens, e.g. Swabs, Faeces, Urine, Blood, Cerebro Spinal Fluid, Exudates and specimens of food, milk, water, ice-cream, etc. for bacteriological examination, to be sent to the new Public Health Laboratory, Monsall Hospital, Newton Heath, Manchester, 10. (Tel. No. Collyhurst 2733).  
 Vaccine Lmyph and Diphtheria Prophylactics also to be obtained from this Laboratory.  
 Specimens of diagnosis of Venereal Diseases to be examined at the York Place Laboratory, Manchester.  
 Specimens for examination for tubercle bacilli to be sent to Altrincham General Hospital.

Reference has been made above to the newly formed local Divisional Health Committee; this body which acts under the auspices of the County Council is constituted as follows:—

18 County District Representatives from the four Mid-Cheshire District Councils.

9 County Council Representatives.

8 Co-opted Members.

The "Personal" Health Services which locally this Committee has, since the 5th July, 1948, undertaken certain responsibilities delegated to them by the County Council, are set out below:—

- |   |                             |
|---|-----------------------------|
| (1) Care of Mothers & Young Children Service ... ..                           | (N.H.S. Act. 1946. Sec. 22) |
| (2) Midwifery, Health Visiting & Home Nursing Services ( .. .. , 23, 24 & 25) |                             |
| (3) Vaccination & Immunisation Services ... ..                                | ( .. .. , 26)               |
| (4) Ambulance & Transport Service ... ..                                      | ( .. .. , 27)               |
| (5) Prevention of Illness, Care & After Care Services ...                     | ( .. .. , 28)               |
| (6) Domestic Help Services ...  | ( .. .. , 29)               |
| (7) Health Education & Mental Health Services.                                |                             |

## Section C.

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

**Water Supplies.**—Generally speaking the water supply, both in regard to quality and quantity, has been very satisfactorily maintained.

The area in the Utkinton-Rushton region, where there are no piped services, is still without an adequate supply, although it is understood that the Water Board are expecting consent to main laying works at an early date. It is not expected that the new scheme can be in service before the end of 1949 at the earliest, although some parts may be completed a little earlier.

New extensions have been carried out by the Water Board during the year for new developments, but the lengths of the new mains laid are not known to the Council. The houses which these extensions will serve, most of which were completed during the year, are as follows:—

Weaverham	86 houses	Byley	12 houses
Hartford	25 „	Allostock	14 „
Acton	8 „	Lostock Gralam	40 „
Delamere	16 „	Barnton	38 „
Tarporley	12 „	Davenham	16 „
Little Budworth	8 „	Moulton	20 „
Darnhall	8 „	Cuddington	12 „
Wimboldsley	12 „	Rudheath	22 „
Total — 349 houses.			

During the course of the year 10 samples of water were taken by the Public Health Department and submitted to the Laboratory for bacteriological examination with the following results:—

#### Bacteriological Examinations:—

Date	Site	Analyst's Report
1948		
10th June	Platt's Field, Wincham	“Satisfactory”
22nd June	Platt's Field, Wincham	“Satisfactory”
3rd Aug.	Platt's Field, Wincham	“Satisfactory”
3rd Aug.	Dogmore Well, Delamere	“Unsatisfactory” Well closed
13th Sept.	Gresty's Well, Utkinton	“Unsatisfactory” *
13th „	Utkinton Hall Well	“Unsatisfactory” *
13th „	Fishers Green Well	“Unsatisfactory” *
13th „	Top Well, Utkinton	“Unsatisfactory” *
13th „	Slater, Hollins Hill Cottage, Utkinton	“Border-line” *
13th „	Bostock, Hollins Hill Cottage, Utkinton	“Satisfactory” *

\* Samples taken in connection with M. of H. Inquiry held at Crewe on 22nd September, 1948 re Water Supplies to Parish of Utkinton.

In addition to the above samples, the Water Board have kept us well informed of their sampling activities and well over a 100 copies of Rural samples have been passed on to me.

There is no change to report on my 1947 report as to the availability of the supply, either direct to the houses or by means of standpipes.

### **Drainage, Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.**

The following statement, for which I am indebted to Mr. J. B. Birtwistle, the Engineer and Surveyor of the Council, sets out in some detail the main drainage schemes and activities of the Council during 1948:—

#### **“Delamere — Eddisbury Borehole — Protection of Subterranean Supply.**

No further development has taken place since the last report, the Water Board not having come to a decision regarding a contribution towards the cost of sewerage works in or adjacent to the subterranean water supply gathering grounds either in this or other areas.

#### **Delamere School & Cottages.**

It has now been agreed with the County Council that the Council shall remove the existing outfall at the rear of Delamere C. of E. Schools to a point near Hindswell Gutter, a distance of some 900 yards, where the outfall will be in open country and far removed from the houses and schools. Tenders have been obtained for the carrying out of the scheme, which will be financially supported by the County Council.

The new works will consist of detritus and screening tank, settling tanks in duplicate, filter and humus tank, together with sludge drying beds complete, in order to provide an effluent fit to discharge into the natural stream.

The tendered cost amounts to £2,763 13s. 10d.

#### **Cotebrook Village, Utkinton.**

Since the last report there have been further delays, but tenders have been obtained and the lowest received (which has been provisionally accepted) shows the cost of the work has now advanced from £1,575 to £3,173 11s. 8d., exclusive of land and loan charges. Beyond asking for their properties to be connected to the proposed sewers, no indication of a contribution to cover the sterilized land in the Water Board's ownership has been received. Nevertheless, the Council decided to proceed with the work when, in spite of a previous agreement, the owner of the outfall site raised objection, unless the Council would agree



to carry out additional private drainage works to certain cottages. The Council are trying to remove this difficulty and unless they succeed compulsory powers may be necessary before the work can proceed.

### **Weaverham Sewerage & Sewage Disposal Scheme.**

This scheme is now well advanced, the main sewers being almost completed to the terminus ends. Already the pumping installation at Hartford Beach has been rendered obsolete and has been removed.

The new outfall works are rapidly nearing completion and will shortly be available for treatment. As soon as this is done it will be possible to complete the provision of a new filter and humus tanks at Owley Wood works, which are, for the present, being somewhat overworked.

The new outfall works at Allostock, Wimboldsley, Byley, Marton, Rushton, Darnhall and Sproston, which are all furnished with sprinklers, are completed. Others are in hand.

### **New Sewers.**

The lengths of new sewers laid during the year are as follows:—

	<b>Foul Sewers</b>	<b>Surface Sewers</b>	<b>Water Total Lin. Yds.</b>
Barnton ... ..	1,312	1,822	3,134
W'ham (Withens Lane)	1,283	2,459	3,742
W'ham (Northwich Rd.)	1,160	1,984	3,144
Cuddington ... ..	435	1,708	2,143
Allostock ... ..	680	309	989 *
Byley ... ..	264	—	264 *
Crowton ... ..	44	—	44 *
Davenham ... ..	—	96	96
Delamere ... ..	183	202	385
Hartford ... ..	397	383	780
Little Budworth ...	181	217	398
Nether Peover ... ..	92	—	92
Rudheath ... ..	330	539	869
Rushton ... ..	208	23	231 *
Tarporley ... ..	40	—	40
Wimboldsley (part) ...	102	164	266 *
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total ...	6,711	9,906	16,617 =
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
			9.4414 miles

\* The figures marked with an asterisk indicate where no main sewerage facilities existed and where new outfall disposal



works are each provided with filters and revolving sprinklers. In the remaining parishes, of course, existing sewers and out-fall works are available."

During the course of the year 6 samples of sewage effluent were taken by the Public Health Department and submitted to the Laboratory for chemical analysis, with the following results:-

Site	Analyst's Report
Darlington's Field, Well Lane, Weaverham	"Unsatisfactory"
Sewage Works, Owley Wood	"Unsatisfactory"
Delamere/Oakmere Housing Site, Sewerage Works	"Unsatisfactory"
-do-	-do-
-do-	-do-
-do-	-do-

### **Rivers Pollution.**

The organic pollution of streams in the Council's district is certainly not worse than previously, and in many cases must now be much improved by reason of the number of new revolving sprinklers installed in connection with private houses and farms.

### **Closet Accommodation.**

During the year only 7 conversions were carried out with Council assistance. There must, however, be some 265 pail closets in the three bigger parishes—Rudheath (30 approx.), Cuddington (50 approx.) and Weaverham (185 approx.)—and over 200 should be capable of conversion. Most of the 200 are in the Weaverham area and when the new sewerage works are completed there, it is hoped to reduce this figure drastically.

### **Night Soil Collection.**

The Council now undertakes the collection of night-soil by direct labour in the following Parishes:—

Marston	Anderton
Wincham	Comberbach
Acton	Darnhall (part)
Cuddington	Wimboldsley (part)
Weaverham	Oakmere (part)

Collection in Rudheath (part) is still undertaken by contract, which terminates on the 31st March, 1949. The Council, in order to minimise aerial nuisance arising from this type of collection, have placed on order one 800 gallon Combined Cesspit Emptier and Nightsoil Collection vehicle. Delivery is expected in December, 1949.

### Public Cleansing.

The Chief Sanitary Inspector, Mr. J. S. Carrie, reports as follows under this heading:—

“The whole of the Council’s district is now served by this service; twenty-seven parishes being dealt with by Direct Labour and five parishes by Contract. In order to meet increased demands, in view of the industrial development taking place in the Area, the Council have placed on order two 10-cu. yd. “Dennis” side-loading refuse freighters for delivery in 1949.

### Salvage of Waste Materials.

As can be seen from the following table, the sale of salvaged materials shows an increase of approximately £600 over the previous twelve months. This, for a Rural area, is very creditable.

#### Sale of Salvage Materials:—

1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948
£753	£910	£2242	£2210	£1582	£1124	£837	£1226	£1825
Total Sales to date were — £12,709.								

The principal sales of salvage were:—

#### During the Year 1948.

					Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.
Paper	...	...	...	...	183	19	2	0
Textiles	...	...	...	...	25	5	2	0
Iron	...	...	...	...	24	10	0	0
Bones	...	...	...	...	1	17	1	0
Bottles	...	...	...	...	8	19	3	7
Jars	...	...	...	...	2	9	1	8

Since the inception of the Salvage Scheme in April, 1940, the following collections have been made:—

					Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.
Paper	...	...	...	...	1331	1	1	0
Textiles	...	...	...	...	155	13	1	3
Iron	...	...	...	...	445	18	0	0
Tins	...	...	...	...	287	9	3	0
Bones	...	...	...	...	23	18	0	0
Bottles	...	...	...	...	31	13	0	13
Jars	...	...	...	...	29	19	3	15

### Recreational Sites and Playing Fields.

Sites which during the year have been considered relate to:—

**Weaverham.** — The Parish Council have now obtained approval, in principle, to their proposal to proceed with the provision of a Village Hall.

**Davenham.** — Additional land is proposed to be obtained, if approval is received, to the purchase of the Village Hall site, in addition to the Cricket Field already in service.

**Cuddington.** — A public meeting refused to approve the proposal to purchase a site previously proposed for a playing field, but the Council have made reservations in their new housing scheme of a playing area.

**Rudheath.** — Owing to Town Planning and other changes, the proposal to develop a previously accepted site has not yet materialized. The Council's new housing development proposals include a reservation for recreational purposes.

### **Swimming Baths and Pools.**

There are no public swimming baths in the Council's District, but there are several private ones as follows:—

Fourways Cafe, Oakmere	
Golden Nook, Cuddington	
I.C.I. Bath, Acton	} Not available to general public.
Marbury Hall Club	
Marton School Camp	

Samples were taken from two of the above during 1948 and submitted for bacteriological examination, with the following results:—

<b>Samples.</b>	<b>Report.</b>
Sample of open-air swimming-bath water — Marton Camp School.	Probable No. of coliform organisms per 100 c.c. water—13. The coliform organisms isolated were of faecal origin.
Sample of swimming-bath water — Fourways Cafe, Oakmere.	Probable No. of coliform organisms per 100 c.c. — 1. The coliform organisms isolated were of faecal origin.

### **Schools.**

The total number of schools in the Council's area remains the same:—

5 Private Schools.
32 Elementary Schools.
1 School Camp.

### **Destruction of Rats and Mice.**

During the year 119 premises were treated, involving 1,370 operational visits. The contract figures for the year amounted to £240, and the amounts received in connection with isolated clearances totalled £15 14s. 7d. These figures show an increase



over last year of £94 14s. 7d. The Council again operated jointly with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries in the treatment of rats in sewers and will receive appropriate grants in this connection.

### Common Lodging Houses.

There are no Common Lodging Houses in the Rural District.

### Camping Sites.

The following camping sites continue in operation:—

1. Allways Cafe, Allstock
2. S. Worth, Crabtree Garage, Oakmere.
3. Mrs. Speachley, Eddisbury Hill.
4. L. K. Beckwith, Eddisbury Hill.
5. Sandy Lane, Weaverham — 2 sites.

## SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

### Statement of Inspections made and Notices Issued.

Nature of Inspections made.	Number	Informal Notices		Statutory Notices	
		Issued	Compl- ed with	Issued	Compl- ed with
1. Dwelling Houses (general inspection) ..	195	81	49	20	..
2. Dwelling Houses (overcrowding) ..	131	7	7	..	..
3. Moveable Dwellings .. ..	13	2	2	..	..
4. Sanitary Accommodation to Dwellings	1040	52	42	..	..
5. Drainage, Septic Tanks and Cesspools ..	133	46	46	..	..
6. Ditches and Watercourses .. ..	19	14	13	..	..
7. Offensive Accumulations .. ..	6	6	6	..	..
8. Keeping of Animals .. ..	13	7	7	..	..
9. Provision of Ashbins .. ..	62	36	36	..	..
10. Supervision of Refuse Collection ..	279	2	2	..	..
11. Supervision of Refuse Tips .. ..	67	5	5	..	..
12. Slaughterhouses .. ..	17	1	1	..	..
13. Bakehouses and other places where food is prepared .. ..	52	8	6	..	..
14. Dairies and Cowsheds .. ..	109	70	65	..	..
15. Factories etc. .. ..	85	1	1	..	..
16. Protection & sampling of Water Supplies	18	16	9	..	..
17. Canal Boats .. ..	9	..	..	..	..
18. Infectious Diseases, Investigations and Disinfections .. ..	71	..	..	..	..
19. Schools, Inspection and Disinfection ..	10	2	2	..	..
20. Disinfection of Premises .. ..	87	..	..	..	..
21. Deratisation of Premises .. ..	1370	119	119	..	..
22. Smoke Observations .. ..	2	..	..	..	..
23. Miscellaneous Disinfestations .. ..	19	19	19	..	..
24. Properties—Inspections under Rural Housing Survey .. ..	386	..	..	..	..
Totals ..	4193	494	437	20	..



### FACTORIES INSPECTION.

Premises.	Number on Register	Number of		
		In- spections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities .. ..	5	6	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by that Local Authority .. ..	148	79	1	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) .. .. .	51	—	—	—
Total .. .. .	204	85	1	—

### CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particnlars.	Number of cases in which defects were found.				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1) ..	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) .. ..	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S. 3) .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient .. ..	—	I	—	I	—
(b) Unsuitable or de- fective .. ..	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ..	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ..	—	I	—	I	—

## OUTWORK

Nature of Work.	No. of out-workers in August list required by Sect. 110.	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council.	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists.	No. of instances of work in unwholes' me premises.	Notices served and prosecutions.
Wearing apparel ... Making, etc. ...	3	—	—	—	—
Total ...	3	—	—	—	—

### Section D.

### HOUSING.

#### New Houses.

The provision of new houses during 1948, on the whole, reads very satisfactorily, as may be gathered from the following table :-

Parishes.	Erected by the COUNCIL.	Erected by PRIVATE ENTERPRISE	Conversions or Adaptations
Acton ...	8	—	—
Allostock ...	10	—	—
Barnton ...	18	1	—
Byley ...	10	—	—
Comberbach ...	6	2	—
Cuddington ...	10	2	2
Darnhall ...	8	—	—
Davenham ...	12	2	4
Delamere ...	16	—	—
Hartford ...	25	7	—
Little Budworth ...	4	—	—
Lostock Gralam ...	4	1	—
Marton ...	8	2	—
Marston ...	8	—	—
Moulton ...	14	—	—
Oakmere ...	—	4	—
Rudheath ...	18	2	—
Rushton ...	8	—	—
Sproston ...	4	—	—
Tarporley ...	12	—	—
Weaverham ...	50	7	12
Wimboldsley ...	12	—	—
Wincham ...	—	1	—
Total ...	265	31	18

### New Housing Sites.

New housing sites have been selected at Cuddington and Weaverham during the year, but in both cases they are extensions of sites in course of development.

### Rural Housing Survey.

The survey of working-class houses in the district has been continued during the year. An up-to-date review of the survey shows as follows:—

Parish.	No. of working class houses inspected (R. V. £20 and under).	No. provisionally regarded as requiring demolition.	No. found to be overcrowded.
Anderton	105	16	0
Barnton	636	100	34
Byley	3	2	0
Comberbach	141	40	3
Crowton	3	0	0
Little Budworth	1	1	0
Little Leigh	95	16	4
Lostock Gralam	264	49	2
Marbury	4	0	0
Marston	173	49	9
Moulton	281	28	10
Weaverham	59	19	3
Wimboldsley	2	2	0
Wincham	232	69	15
Total	1999	391	80

### Unfit Houses.

During the year one house was demolished, by agreement with the owner, and the following statutory action taken:—

#### Housing Act, 1936.

##### Section 9.

Repair of insanitary houses	...	...	...	...	5
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##### Section 11.

Demolition Orders	...	...	...	...	14
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##### Section 12.

Closing Order	...	...	...	...	1
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### Squatters' Camp.

The Squatters Camp at Hartford Manor has received maintenance attention throughout the year and some huts have been demolished.

Owing to the close proximity of the Northwich Urban Council's housing scheme and the fact that Manor House was included in their purchase, the Rural Council were asked to agree to their taking over the responsibility for the six huts on their land. This was agreed to on the condition that housing accommodation was provided by the Urban Council for the occupying tenants. It is believed that some of the tenants have already been re-housed and their huts demolished.

Huts are demolished as they become vacant, on the instructions of the Ministry of Health.

### Section E.

#### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) **Milk.**—77 samples — as against 81 during 1947 — of milk were submitted to the Laboratory during 1948, with the following results:—

(1) Graded milk for compliance with prescribed standards:—		Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.
Tuberculin-Tested Milk	... 17 samples	14 samples	
Accredited Milk	... 1 sample	7	„
Pasteurised Milk	... 26 samples	6	„
T.T. (Pasteurised Milk)	... 2 „	0	„
(2) Cleanliness tests of Ungraded Milks		2 „	2 „

4 samples were submitted to the Laboratory for examination for Tubercle Baccilli, with negative results.

Included amongst the above figure of 77 samples were 35 samples of School Milk, of which 11 failed to comply with the prescribed standards. The retailers and producers concerned were immediately informed of these unsatisfactory school supplies.

In addition to the above, 17 successive satisfactory reports on samples of pasteurised milk being produced at a large Milk Depot in the area have been reported to us by the County Health Department.

The number of milk producing farms in the area total 619, categorised as follows:—

Ordinary milk producers	... 328
Accredited milk producers	... 266
Tuberculin-Tested milk producers	... 25

It is interesting to note the increasing number of Tuberculin-Tested milk producers.

The following licences under the Milk Special Designations Order were granted during the year:—



Authorising dealers to use the special designation  
"Tuberculin Tested"

(a) in respect of the sale of bottled milk only ...	7
(b) in respect of licence to bottle ... ..	3

Authorising dealers to use the special designation  
"Pasteurised"

(a) in respect of the sale of bottled milk only ...	8
(b) in respect of licence to bottle ... ..	1

Supplementary licences authorising the use of the  
special designation "Tuberculin-Tested" ... 5

Supplementary licences authorising the use of the  
special designation "Pasteurised" ... .. 4

- (b) **Meat.**—No regular slaughtering has taken place in the district as all the 16 licensed slaughterhouses are closed, due to the operation of the Ministry of Food's Orders.

Slaughter of Animals Act — 15 suspected cases of Anthrax were reported under this Act, none of which was confirmed by the Ministry of Agriculture.

Under the Tuberculosis Order, 1938, the County Veterinary Officers dealt with two cases occurring on farms in this area.

(c) **Other Foods.**

The following is a summary of meat and other foods condemned during the year:—

11½ lbs. Flour	2 tins Fruit Salad
475 lbs. Prunes	3 tins Plums
156 tins Evaporated Milk	1 tin Pineapples
2 tins Pork & Beans	32 lbs. Beef
1 tin Swift's Meat Paste	89 tins Anchovies
2 tins Melon Jam	1 6lb. tin Ox Tongue
10 tins Beans	1 tin Mandarin Orange
3 tins Stewed Steak	45 lbs. Lamb
2 tins Damsons	4 lbs. Lamb's Pluck
140 lbs. Dried Peas	3 jars Pickles
4 tins Peas	5 lbs. Apricots
1 tin Veal Loaf	1 lb. Sausage
1 tin Syrup	2 Meat Pies
5 tins Marmalade	14 lbs. Oranges & Apples
1 tin Mixed Vegetables	56 lbs. Butter
1 tin Diced Beetroot	4 tins Luncheon Meat
2 tins Salmon	1 Bottle Olives
1 tin Scotch Broth	

Food & Drugs Act, 1938. — The Council has on register the following food preparing premises:—

15	Fried Fish Shops
22	Butchers' Premises
18	Cafes
17	Bakehouses
35	Canteens
50	Hotels as Catering Establishments
12	Ice Cream Premises

Periodic visits have been paid throughout the year and a high hygienic standard maintained.

### Ice Cream Premises.

Five premises hold licences for the sale and manufacture of Ice Cream and seven premises for the sale only of Ice Cream received from other licensed manufacturers.

The Health Department took 26 samples of Ice Cream during the year and details of these samples are recorded as follows:—

25	Hot Mix	—	Grade 1	—	10	samples
			„ 2	—	6	„
			„ 3	—	6	„
			„ 4	—	3	„
1	Cold Mix	—	Grade 3	—	1	sample

In addition, the following, based upon a statement by the County Council Weights and Measures Inspectors, is a summary of other samples obtained in the Northwich Rural District during the year 1948:—

Name of Samples.		Number obtained.	Number adulterated or not up to the recognised standard of quality.
Baking Powder	...	1	...
Boracic Ointment	...	1	...
Bread (White)	...	1	...
Castor Oil	...	1	...
Cod Liver Oil Capsules	...	1	...
Epsom Salts	...	1	...
Eucalyptus Oil	...	1	...
Fish Pastes	...	2	...
Gravy Browning	...	1	...
Lemonade	...	1	...
Liquorice Powder	...	1	...
Milk	...	38	...
Mustard	...	1	...
Paraffin (Liquid)	...	1	...
Pepper (White)	...	1	...
Pickle (Sweet)	...	1	...
Sausage (Beef)	...	1	...
Soda—Bicarbonate of	...	1	...
Vinegar (Malt)	...	2	...
		—	—
		58	3
		—	—

### Particulars of Non-standard Samples.

No.	Sample.	Analysis.			Remarks.
1.	Milk	10%	deficient in	Milk-fat	Seller cautioned.
2.	"	10%	"	"	Both samples from same retailer.
3.	"	10%	"	"	
					Seller cautioned.

### SECTION F.

## PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

- (1) The incidence of Infectious Diseases, with the notable exception of Measles and Whooping Cough, was low, as may be gathered from the following table:—

Incidence of Infectious Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1948.

DISEASES.	Total Cases Notified	Cases Admitted to Hospital	TOTAL DEATHS
Diphtheria ... ..	3	3	—
Scarlet Fever ... ..	51	46	—
Pneumonia ... ..	14	—	2
Erysipelas ... ..	1	—	—
Measles ... ..	330	2	—
Whooping Cough .. ..	126	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis ... ..	2	2	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever .. ..	1	1	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	1	1	—

The two cases of Poliomyelitis occurring in the area during the year were admitted to Davenham Isolation Hospital and were later transferred, one to the Clatterbridge County Hospital and the other to Warrington Infirmary, for Orthopaedic treatment — there was no apparent connection between the two cases.

Of the three cases of Diphtheria notified, none had received protective treatment under the Diphtheria Immunisation Scheme.

### Specimens submitted for Bacteriological Examination.

Examined for.	Number submitted	Result.	
		Positive	Negative
Diphtheria Bacilli ... ..	22	—	22
Typhoid Group ... ..	—	—	—
Hæmolytic Streptococci ... ..	22	14	8
Fæces .. ..	2	—	2
Staphylococci ... ..	2	2	—
Brucella Abortis ... ..	—	—	—

**(2) TUBERCULOSIS.**

The table below details the ages of both new cases and deaths from both forms of Tuberculosis.

**TUBERCULOSIS.**

New Cases and Mortality during 1948.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1- 5 years ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-15 „ ...	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
15-25 „ ...	5	2	—	—	1	2	—	—
25-35 „ ...	1	5	—	—	—	1	—	—
35-45 „ ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45-55 „ ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
55-65 „ ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ...	10	8	1	—	1	—	—	—

Number of patients on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of the years :—

1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948
183	197	215	243	257	272	238	244	229	229

56 Sputum specimens were examined at the County Council's Laboratory during the year, 2 of which were reported on as positive.

**(3) DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.**

The progress made in the Northwich Rural Area under the Diphtheria Immunisation Scheme up to the 30th June, 1948 can be gathered from the following figures :—

1941. 1942. 1943. 1944. 1945. 1946. 1947. 1948.  
(Up to 30th June, 1948).

Percentage of Children treated between 0-4 years of age inclusive

25.3% 37.2% 37.1% 34.5% 35.2% 34.1% 42.44% 39.2%

Percentage of Children treated between 5-14 years of age inclusive

73.7% 77.7% 78.3% 80.7% 76.6% 75.6% 74.9% 71.6%



The total number of children known to have received protective treatment in the Northwich Rural area up to 30th June, 1948, was 6,643, of whom 617 have received "booster" injections.

#### (4) **SCABIES AND VERMINOUS INFESTATION.**

The arrangements made in 1942 through the Joint M.O.H. Committee for the treatment of Scabies and Pediculosis patients worked very satisfactorily during 1948. Patients of the Rural District receive cleansing treatment at the Northwich and Winsford Cleansing Centres.

The reduction in the incidence of Scabies since 1942 can be gathered from the following:—

	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948
Cases of Scabies	755	453	399	243	233	119	28
Cases of Pediculosis	25	12	12	17	2	1	—
Total	780	465	411	260	235	120	28
No. of Households involved	270	184	169	119	101	62	18

#### (5) **DISINFECTION OF PREMISES.**

The disinfection of 106 premises was carried out during the year as follows:—

For Vermin (using D.D.T. & Gammexane)	...	...	19 houses
For Tuberculosis (plus steam disinfection of bedding)		8	„
For Infectious Diseases	...	...	79 „

#### (6) **EXHUMATION.**

One exhumation took place. The disinterment and reburial took place at St. John's Parish Churchyard, Lostock Gralam.

I would like to say, in closing this report, how much I appreciate the help I have received from the Members of the Council and Officials in dealing with the various matters which have arisen during the year.

W. S. SLATER, M.B., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.,  
Medical Officer of Health.

October, 1949.





